The Golden Moments

Moves are afoot to revive the WA State men's and women's senior teams. Over the next few issues, we will look at some of the great achievements of State teams in the 20th Century.

It's 15 years since WA recorded one of their most satisfactory wins at international challenge level — a stunning 3-2 victory over European Cup Winners Cup holders Werder Bremen at the WACA Ground on June 6, 1992.

The Germans had won the European trophy two weeks before and were expected to blitz the West Australian part-timers, who were coached by Gary Marocchi before he went on to lead the Perth Kangaroos and then Perth Glory.

A crowd of 13,000 cheered superb goals from youngsters Stan Lazaridis and Tony Carbone — and fine replies from Manfred Brockenfeld and Frank Neubarth — and the contest was heading for a draw until powerful flank man Carl McDarby crashed home a breathtaking winner within seconds of the final whistle.

McDarby recalls the goal like it was yesterday. "You don't forget one as important as that," he said. "It came from a free kick by

Carl McDarby

Stan and we had only practised the move that morning.

"It involved Marc Wingell making a dummy run as though he were going to strike the ball, then stopping. The Germans were a bit confused and then Stan stepped in and drove the ball to the near post. I had started my run from the back post, evaded my marker and clipped the ball first time with the outside of my right foot.

"It was really flying and actually went through the back of the net. Some fans thought it had missed, but I never had a doubt."

McDarby, who played 12 times for WA, reckons that squad was the best of his time. "We would have given any side in the NSL a run for their money," he said. "We had Stan and Shaun Murphy, who both went on to big things in England, and the cream of the local talent."

The Irishman was 25 at the time and was wanted by both Melbourne side Heidelberg and Malaysian giants Selangor, but he was married with young children and was a serving policeman. "I thought about taking a year off from my police duties, but then I did my cruciate ligament at the end of that year and that ended my football for a while," he said.

He also had a chance to join Perth Glory in 1996, but again police work took precedence — and he was approached again by the Glory in 2000 when Bernd Stange was coach, but broke his ankle when playing for ECU Joondalup.

After winning four league championships and three D'Orsogna Cups, McDarby quit playing in 2002.

Now 40, he recently left the police service after 17 years and now runs a property development and investment company.

He still plays five-a-side football and occasionally does a bit of coaching. He has high hopes that his 17-year-old son Brian, who plays with ECU Joondalup's youth side, will soon get a chance to make a mark at senior level.

For the record, the WA side that downed Werder Bremen was: Willie McNally, Shaun Murphy, Brian Sweeney, Craig Naven, Marc Wingell, Tony Carbone, Gareth Naven, Carl McDarby, Stan Lazaridis, Trim Morgan, Brian Roberts and Frank Bate, who replaced Roberts as a substitute after 75 minutes.

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Football Hall of Fame Western Australia

THE FAME GAME

(The official newsletter of the Football Hall of Fame Western Australia)

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MERDEKA CELEBRATION

Members of the four West Australian squads who took part in the prestigious Merdeka tournament in Malaysia between 1967 and 1970 will be feted at a lavish cocktail reception in Perth on Saturday, October 27.

The function will celebrate the 40th anniversary of WA's initial involvement in the tournament in Kuala Lumpur, when the State team became the first Australian representative side to compete in a football tournament in Asia.

Apart from the players, coaches and support staff who were involved in the four events, there will be a distinguished line-up of special guests at the get-together.

His Excellency, the Consulate General of Malaysia, Ahmad Jazri Mohd Johar, will attend with some of his staff from the Malaysian Consulate in Perth.

Other dignitaries will include WA Government representatives, Council officials from around Perth, Football West identities and Julian Burt, the patron of the Football Hall of Fame Western Australia.

The event is being organised by the Hall of Fame Committee, under the leadership of chairman Louis Prospero.

"It is important that we celebrate WA's participation in this wonderful Malaysia competition, as it was a trendsetter for the rest of Australia competing in Asia and derserves great recognition," said Prospero.

"The players and officials were ambassadors for Australia — and WA — and also did a great deal to help promote the State in the region.

"They laid the foundation for Australia's current close relationship with our Asian neighbours."

Prospero added: "The Committee is also grateful for the continuing support of the State's governing body, Football West."

This year is also the 30th anniversary of the first WA women's team to compete in Malaysia and Singapore in 1977 — and members of that breakthrough squad will also be involved in the celebrations on October 27.

The women's team, which included Australian internationals Sharon Loveless, Sandra Brentnall and the late Anna Senjushenko, won all their six games in Malaysia, including a 7-1 victory over the Malaysian national team.

Three members of the squad are travelling considerable distances to be part of the celebrations — Martha Ryan is coming from Sydney, Judy Pettit from Canberra and Chris Harmer (nee Barter) from Broome.

A limited number of tickets are available for what promises to be a memorable function, which will be held at the Royal Bar and Restaurant in East Perth from 6.00pm to 10.00pm.

Jack Smethurst (right) with Perth City teammate Ken Hayward

SWEET MEMORIES

Thinking of having a spring clean? Well, don't throw away your memorabilia — it could be an important part of the history of the game in WA.

The Hall of Fame Committee is striving to set up a Museum in Perth which will showcase items reflecting the development of the game over more than 100 years and spotlight the greats of the sport.

Some items belonging to the late Jack Smethurst — one of the great goalscorers in the 1940's and 1950's — were recently passed on to the Committee by his widow, Betty.

It is hoped to eventually put the Smethurst Collection, which includes a State blazer, medals, photographs and other memorabilia, on display.

Tickets, which cost $40 and includes fingerfood and all beer, wine and soft drinks, are available from Bob Brown (9446 3338), Barbara Gibson (9526 0330) or John O'Connell (0413 973846).

A total of 50 players were involved over the four Merdeka events, with three of them — Paul Sobek, Chris Wissink and Peter Holt — taking part in three of the tournaments.

A further 11 players competed in two of the events.

The list of players, and years of participation:

Chris Wissink (67, 68, 70), Peter Mitchell (67, 69), Alan Lind (67, 68), Christian Ducasse (67), Theo Paap (67, 69), Peter Giorgi (67), Dick Jones (67), Wally Musial (67), Graham Oughton (67, 70), Iain Tannahill (67), Jim McIntosh (67, 68), Paul Sobek (67, 68, 69), Tony Lawlor (67, 68), Bobby Varlow (67, 69), Ray Magennis (67), Zyggie Pieda (67, 68), Pipo Crifo (68), Richard Kuzimski (68, 70), Henry Lukoszek (68), Vlada Knezevich (68), Gerry Pettit (68), John O'Connell (68, 69), Mike Ireson (68), Nino Segon (68), John Kosmonopoulos (68), Lou Andrioff (68), John Van Oosten (68), Peter Holt (68, 69, 70), Tony Eikhoudt (69), Bruno Marocchi (69, 70), Sesto Riberi (69), Dick Hobson (69), John Miller (69), Alex Senjushenko (69), John Starke (69), Mike McKinlay (69), Bob Lee (69), Sergio Alfieri (69), Owen Nuttridge (70), Tommy Carruthers (70), Alan Pendleton (70), Eric Edmunds (70), Hugh Miller (70), Paul Leber (70), Brian Newell (70), Alf DeBono (70), Archie Van Dongen (70), Dave O'Callaghan (70), Bobby Hynd (70), Len Dundo (70).

MUSEUM QUEST CONTINUES

The push for a Museum to showcase the memorabilia and history of the game in Western Australia is still high on the agenda of the Football Hall of Fame Committee.

Committee chairman Louis Prospero and Committee members Bob Brown and John O'Connell recently met with Football West CEO Gary Chandler to discuss a range of subjects, including the possibility of establishing a Museum.

Chandler was supportive of the project and told Prospero that Football West was pressing the WA Government on the matter.

"Football West have a lot of memorabilia, cups, trophies and other items in storage and are very conscious of the need to find some place in which to put these important pieces of history on show," said Prospero.

"They are certainly pressing the Government on our behalf in this quest."

Members of the Football Hall of Fame Committee — along with Football West chairman Kevin Campbell — met Minister for Sport John Kobelke in December, 2006, to put forward a case for the need to establish a Museum in Perth.

Mr Kobelke acknowledged that there was a great deal of passion among the Committee with regards to the project, but he said that no decisions regarding a possible Museum could be taken until the Government's Task Force had concluded its report into major stadiums.

The Task Force has since made certain recommendations regarding possible sites of a new multi-sports stadium in Perth, but the Government has yet to act.

The Committee has told Mr Kobelke that its preferred location for a Museum is space in Members Equity Stadium. No decision has yet been reached, however, on the further development of that Stadium.

Kevin Campbell spoke to Mr Kobelke more recently but was told a decision was some way off. "A home for the Hall of Fame is on the agenda everytime we meet the Government," said Campbell. "We will continue to keep pushing the issue."

Meanwhile, Bob Brown recently returned from a trip to Europe where he visited various football museums, including the impressive set up at Nou Camp Stadium, home of the Barcelona club in Spain.

"It was a wonderful experience and visiting the museum included a film show and a tour of the ground," said Brown. "And I certainly came away with some great ideas for exhibiting our memorabilia in Perth."

He also visited the Coventry City stadium in England, which includes a small hotel, and the English National Museum at Preston North End's ground.

"The one at Preston is superb with areas where the public can participate in things like virtual reality concepts and make use of head phones that relate stories of legendary players and famous incidents. It's laid out over three floors — and the third floor of the building is Preston's North End's own club museum.

"The Barcelona museum costs $30, but the one at Preston is for free as it is funded by the National Lottery."

The trophy room at Nou Camp Stadium

THE JONES 'BOY' IS BACK

Dick Jones, a State team star from the Sixties, is now giving a lot back to the game — by coaching kids in Collie.

Jones, who was included in the State's Top 100 players when the Century of Champions list was compiled in 2004, recently moved from Perth to the South-West town and rediscovered his passion for football.

"I had a brief spell looking after the club's senior side, but the future is with the kids and I'm happy to be contributing at that level," he said.

The 67-year-old looks after the second tier under-14 team, which includes youngsters between the ages of 10 and 14. "They struggled a bit early on and lost the first half dozen games, but then won four on the trot and drew the next two, so there's progress there," he said.

"I've been preaching the need to be fit and to lead a good life. I've helped instil the discipline in them of practising their skills, so those that can improve will do so.

"You need discipline in your approach to football — and to life. I remember from my days with Perth Azzurri that discipline was tough. If you were late for training, you more often than not got dropped from playing and weren't paid."

Jones was born in Cheshire in England and had brief spells with Macclesfield, Blackburn and Huddersfield before coming to WA, where he was a key member of the Azzurri side that was unbeaten when romping to the State League title in 1967.

"I had two good years at Azzurri and we won five out of six competitions in that spell," recalled Jones, who also had a stint as player-coach with Morley.

PLAYING THE FAME GAME

Readers of The Fame Game are being invited to play a part in nominations for the next induction into the Hall of Champions and Hall of Recognition, which will be held in July, 2008.

If there is someone worthy of inclusion in either category, please forward nominations to any of the following Committee members:

Louis Prospero (0413 041942), Bob Brown (9446 3338), Barbara Gibson (9526 0330) or John O'Connell (0413 973846).

FOOTBALL FAIR

A Memorabilia and Programme Fair will be held at the Inglewood United club in Hamer Parade, Inglewood, on Sunday, September 16, from 10.30am to 1.00pm.

Items for sale include local, national and international programmes, books, videos, DVD's, framed photos, badges, trading cards and other football articles.

Entry to the Fair is free.

GREATS ON PARADE

Some of the greats of WA football will be lauded at Football West's Gold Medal Dinner presentation night on Friday, October 19, at the Burswood Entertainment Complex.

While the main focus of the evening will be on the individual champions and trophy winners of 2007, a special tribute will highlight the history of the game — and the history-makers.

There will be displays of memorabilia and video footage of some great action from the past.

Among the special guests will be the Football Hall of Fame's four Legends — Gary Marocchi, Robbie Dunn, John McInroy and Ron Adair.

Both Marocchi and Adair captained Australia, while Dunn played over 40 games for the national team and took part in the 1988 Olympic Games, when the Aussies qualifed for the quarter-finals.

McInroy was one of the great goalscorers of the WA State League, topping the list in eight consecutive seasons from 1958. His best tally was 48 goals in 1963.

Other notable players over the five decades since the federation was founded in 1960 — including Socceroos stars Stan Lazaridis, Robbie Zabica and Shaun Murphy — will also be invited to take part in what promises to be a memorable function.

Tickets for the event are available from Football West on 9422 6900.

• Hughie Miller tells us that his former State teammate, Jim McIntosh, has died in his native Scotland.

McIntosh, who was renowned for his net-bursting long-range goalscoring efforts, played in Perth Azzurri's championship-winning teams in the late 1960's and was a member of the State squad that competed in the Merdeka tournament in 1967 and 1986. He also played for WA against Manchester United in 1967.

•Congratulations to Barrie Greenwood, who this year celebrates 50 years involvement in the WA game.

A former player, referee and administrator, Greenwood is currently a member of Football West's P and D Board.

He was also State team manager in over 50 representative games.

THE DOUG IN FULL FLOW

Flamboyant Irishman Derek Dougan, who died in June at the age of 59, was a member of the Wolverhampton Wanderers side that played the WA State team in an international challenge match at Perry Lakes in 1972, with the English visitors winning 3-0.

The tall striker was renowned for his controversial and outspoken opinions on a variety of subjects — and his committed style of play — and didn't disappoint when he faced the part-timers of Western Australia.

A late tackle on defender Hugh Miller saw referee Rudi Hankey reach for his notebook, indicating that he was ready to send off the Northern Ireland star.

The stand-off between player and official resulted in this famous photograph as the volatile Dougan let fly with a mouthful and pointed out to the official that the fans were there to see the player in action — and not the referee.

He stayed on the pitch.

KNIGHTS TO REMEMBER

Arise Sir Ernest? That's what they are saying to former state star Ernie Hannigan these days.

Hannigan has just returned from a global trip that saw him attend Glasgow Celtic's 40th anniversary European Cup-winning celebrations in Las Vegas — and catch up with two famous old pals in England.

He renewed contact with the legendary Sir Tom Finney at Preston North End, where Hannigan scored 29 league goals in 97 appearances between 1964 and 1967.

"I got Sir Tom to sign an autographed photo for me," said Ernie. "He signed it with Best Wishes to Ernest — he always calls me Ernest. Now he wants me to send him an autographed photo on me from Perth."

The next day he was in the company of Sir Alex Ferguson, an old mate from his teenage days in Glasgow.

"I was keen to hear about Manchester United, but all Fergie wanted to talk about was horse racing — he owns a few horses and is a big fan," said Hannigan.

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